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**41% OF PENNSYLVANIANS ARE MORE INTERESTED IN SOCCER
THANKS TO THE WORLD CUP,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY SPORTS POLL FINDS;
BASKETBALL FANS THINK SIGNING LEBRON JAMES
TO THE 76ERS WOULD BE A SLAM DUNK**

As the 2026 World Cup draws to a close with the final match taking place on Sunday, roughly 4 out of 10 adults in Pennsylvania (41 percent) say the World Cup being played in the United States has made them more interested in soccer, while 55 percent say it has not made them more interested in soccer, according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University Sports Poll of adults in Pennsylvania released today. The survey was conducted in collaboration with the Quinnipiac University School of Communications.

There are differences among age groups when asked if the World Cup being played in the U.S. has made them more interested in soccer:

- 18 to 34 year olds: 52 percent say yes, while 44 percent say no;
- 35 to 49 year olds: 39 percent say yes, while 54 percent say no;
- 50 to 64 year olds: 37 percent say yes, while 62 percent say no;
- 65 years of age and over: 33 percent say yes, while 62 percent say no.

“FIFA may not have won over the general public, but younger Americans are telling a different story. Their enthusiasm suggests the next generation of soccer fans is already taking shape,” said Brittani Webb, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Media Studies, Quinnipiac University School of Communications.

U.S. RED CARD CONTROVERSY

Pennsylvanians were asked about President Trump’s involvement in the World Cup when he asked FIFA, the governing body of international soccer, to review the penalty against U.S. Men’s Soccer player Folarin Balogun that made him ineligible to play in the U.S. team’s next game, against Belgium. FIFA allowed Balogun to play in the game.

Fifty-two percent of adults disapprove of President Trump’s action, while 28 percent approve, with 19 percent not offering an opinion.

“We’ve always loved sports to be sports. So, politics entering the discussion at this level takes us into an entirely new world. In the end, what mattered most was that Belgium was just better,” said Nick Pietruszkiewicz, Assistant Professor of Journalism and Program Director of Sports Communications, Quinnipiac University.

LEBRON JAMES

With speculation swirling about where LeBron James will land now that he is a free agent, 62 percent of professional basketball fans overall think it would be either an excellent (24 percent) or good (38 percent) move by the 76ers to sign LeBron James, while 25 percent think it would be either a not so good (12 percent) or poor (13 percent) move by the 76ers, with 13 percent not offering an opinion.

Among 76ers fans, 65 percent think signing James would be either an excellent (29 percent) or good (36 percent) move, while 26 percent think it would be either a not so good (12 percent) or poor (14 percent) move.

“LeBron James in Philadelphia would be such an interesting end-of-career dynamic. He says he is looking for happiness. As someone who grew up as a sports fan in Northeastern Pennsylvania and knows the fans of Philadelphia well, this would not be boring, for sure,” added Pietruszkiewicz.

JAYLEN BROWN

Sixty-two percent of professional basketball fans overall give the thumbs up to the 76ers trade to acquire Jaylen Brown from the Celtics, as 24 percent think the trade was an excellent move and 38 percent think it was a good move. Seven percent think it was a not so good move and 4 percent think it was a poor move. Twenty-eight percent did not offer an opinion.

Among 76ers fans, 75 percent think the trade to acquire Jaylen Brown from the Celtics was either an excellent (32 percent) or good (43 percent) move, while 7 percent think it was either a not so good (3 percent) or poor (4 percent) move, with 18 percent not offering an opinion.

“The trade bringing Jaylen Brown to the 76ers has been one of the most talked-about moves this offseason, and 76ers fans seem optimistic about what it means for the team's future,” added Webb.

ANTHONY DAVIS

Thirty-nine percent of professional basketball fans overall think a 76ers trade with the Washington Wizards to acquire Anthony Davis would be either an excellent (6 percent) or good (33 percent) move by the 76ers, while 31 percent think it would be either a not so good (16 percent) or poor (15 percent) move by the 76ers. Thirty-one percent did not offer an opinion.

76ERS' NEXT SEASON

As for what the next season holds for the 76ers, professional basketball fans are not optimistic.

Thirty-six percent of professional basketball fans overall expect the 76ers to make the NBA finals this coming year, while 47 percent do not, with 17 percent not offering an opinion.

PHILLIES VS. PIRATES

In the ultimate Pennsylvania Major League Baseball fantasy, if it came down to the Philadelphia Phillies and the Pittsburgh Pirates facing each other in the MLB playoffs, 50 percent of Pennsylvanians would want the Phillies to win and 37 percent would want the Pirates to win, with 13 percent sitting on the bench for this one, not choosing sides.

PHILLIES & THE WORLD SERIES

When professional baseball fans in the Keystone State were asked to give their best guess about when the Phillies will next win the World Series, nearly half (48 percent) say within the next five years, 29 percent say in 5 to 10 years, 6 percent say more than 10 years, and 7 percent say probably never again, with 10 percent not offering an opinion.

Among Phillies fans, 71 percent say the Phillies will win the World Series within the next five years.

“The Phillies have a talented, but aging roster. The window – with Bryce Harper and Kyle Schwarber and Zack Wheeler and Cristopher Sánchez – is now,” added Pietruszkiewicz.

PIRATES & THE PLAYOFFS

When professional baseball fans in the Keystone State were asked to give their best guess about when the Pirates will next make the playoffs, 35 percent say within the next five years, 25 percent say in 5 to 10 years, 12 percent say more than 10 years, and 15 percent say probably never again, with 13 percent not offering an opinion.

Among Pirates fans, 52 percent say the Pirates will make the playoffs within the next five years.

986 adults in Pennsylvania were surveyed from July 9th – 13th with a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points, including the design effect. The sample includes 413 self-identified professional basketball fans with a margin of error of +/- 6.4 percentage points, including the design effect and 613 self-identified professional baseball fans with a margin of error of +/- 5.2 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Doug Schwartz, Ph.D. since 1994, conducts independent, non-partisan national and state polls on politics and issues. Surveys adhere to industry best practices and are based on probability-based samples using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones.

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Email poll@qu.edu or follow us on X [@QuinnipiacPoll](https://twitter.com/QuinnipiacPoll).

22. Would you say the World Cup being played in the United States has made you more interested in soccer, or not?

	ADULTS.....									
				AGE IN YRS.....				AREA.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	West	Cntrl	East
Yes/More interested	41%	42%	39%	52%	39%	37%	33%	36%	37%	46%
No	55	54	57	44	54	62	62	59	60	50
DK/NA	4	4	4	3	7	1	4	5	3	4

23. As you may know, Donald Trump asked FIFA, the governing body of international soccer, to review U.S. Men's Soccer player Folarin Balogun's penalty that made him ineligible to play in the U.S. team's next game in the World Cup, against Belgium. FIFA allowed Balogun to play in the game. Do you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump's action?

	ADULTS.....									
				AGE IN YRS.....				AREA.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	West	Cntrl	East
Approve	28%	33%	24%	23%	27%	33%	26%	30%	31%	25%
Disapprove	52	44	60	53	53	51	58	52	43	59
DK/NA	19	23	16	24	20	16	16	18	26	16
	Rep	Dem	Ind							
Approve	56%	8%	25%							
Disapprove	25	84	51							
DK/NA	19	7	24							

24. Thinking about professional basketball, would you describe yourself as a super fan, a fan, a casual fan, or not a fan?

	ADULTS.....									
				AGE IN YRS.....				AREA.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	West	Cntrl	East
Super fan	3%	4%	1%	4%	6%	1%	-	2%	3%	3%
Fan	10	12	8	11	8	12	9	5	5	16
Casual fan	27	27	26	22	29	25	30	25	19	32
Not a fan	60	57	64	63	57	60	60	67	72	49
DK/NA	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-

25. (If professional basketball super fan, fan or casual fan q24) Are you a 76ers fan or a fan of another team?

	ADULTS.....					
	PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL FANS Q24.....					
				AGE IN YRS.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-49	50-64	65+
76ers fan	50%	51%	48%	46%	50%	49%
Fan of another team	38	41	36	46	41	29
DK/NA	12	8	16	8	9	21
	FAN TYPE Q24.....					
	SuperFan/Fan		CasualFan			
76ers fan	52%		49%			
Fan of another team	45		35			
DK/NA	4		16			

26. (If professional basketball super fan, fan or casual fan q24) Do you think the 76ers trade to acquire Jaylen Brown from the Celtics was an excellent, good, not so good, or poor move by the 76ers?

ADULTS.....						
PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL FANS Q24.....						
AGE IN YRS.....						
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-49	50-64	65+
Excellent	24%	35%	10%	28%	28%	14%
Good	38	40	35	39	44	31
Not so good	7	6	7	8	8	6
Poor	4	3	4	5	2	3
DK/NA	28	16	43	20	19	47
FAN TYPE Q24..... FAVORITE TEAM Q25						
SuperFan/Fan CasualFan 76ers OtherTeam						
Excellent	41%		15%		32%	18%
Good	39		37		43	33
Not so good	3		9		3	14
Poor	6		2		4	5
DK/NA	11		37		18	31

27. (If professional basketball super fan, fan or casual fan q24) Do you think signing LeBron James would be an excellent, good, not so good, or poor move by the 76ers?

ADULTS.....						
PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL FANS Q24.....						
AGE IN YRS.....						
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-49	50-64	65+
Excellent	24%	24%	23%	26%	27%	20%
Good	38	38	39	38	36	38
Not so good	12	13	10	13	15	10
Poor	13	17	9	14	16	12
DK/NA	13	8	19	10	6	20
FAN TYPE Q24..... FAVORITE TEAM Q25						
SuperFan/Fan CasualFan 76ers OtherTeam						
Excellent	30%		21%		29%	18%
Good	41		37		36	45
Not so good	11		12		12	12
Poor	15		12		14	14
DK/NA	3		17		9	11

28. (If professional basketball super fan, fan or casual fan q24) Do you think a 76ers trade with the Washington Wizards to acquire Anthony Davis would be an excellent, good, not so good, or poor move by the 76ers?

ADULTS.....						
PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL FANS Q24.....						
AGE IN YRS.....						
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-49	50-64	65+
Excellent	6%	8%	3%	8%	3%	4%
Good	33	36	30	34	45	24
Not so good	16	22	8	19	14	13
Poor	15	20	9	22	15	6
DK/NA	31	14	50	17	24	52
FAN TYPE Q24.....			FAVORITE TEAM Q25			
SuperFan/Fan			CasualFan 76ers OtherTeam			
Excellent	8%		5%	6%	7%	
Good	32		34	34	34	
Not so good	22		12	18	16	
Poor	24		11	14	17	
DK/NA	14		39	29	26	

29. (If professional basketball super fan, fan or casual fan q24) Do you expect the 76ers to make the NBA finals this coming year, or not?

ADULTS.....						
PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL FANS Q24.....						
AGE IN YRS.....						
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-49	50-64	65+
Yes/Expect	36%	32%	41%	41%	33%	34%
No	47	60	31	52	53	37
DK/NA	17	8	28	7	14	29
FAN TYPE Q24.....			FAVORITE TEAM Q25			
SuperFan/Fan			CasualFan 76ers OtherTeam			
Yes/Expect	46%		31%	44%	28%	
No	47		47	42	56	
DK/NA	7		22	14	16	

30. Now thinking about professional baseball, would you describe yourself as a super fan, a fan, a casual fan, or not a fan?

ADULTS.....										
AGE IN YRS.....										
AREA.....										
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	West	Cntrl	East
Super fan	7%	10%	4%	5%	8%	7%	6%	6%	5%	8%
Fan	19	21	16	10	18	26	23	14	14	24
Casual fan	31	30	33	20	34	31	40	34	30	30
Not a fan	43	39	47	65	40	36	30	46	50	37
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-

31. (If professional baseball super fan, fan or casual fan q30) Are you a Philllies fan, a Pirates fan, or a fan of another team?

	ADULTS.....								
	PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL FANS Q30.....								
				AGE IN YRS.....			AREA.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-49	50-64	65+	West	Cntrl	East
Phillies	46%	44%	48%	44%	45%	46%	1%	38%	74%
Pirates	27	26	27	23	27	32	80	20	2
Another team	24	26	22	32	25	16	12	37	24
DK/NA	3	3	3	1	3	6	7	4	1

FAN TYPE Q30.....		
SuperFan/Fan	CasualFan	
Phillies	52%	41%
Pirates	23	30
Another team	24	24
DK/NA	-	6

32. If the Philadelphia Philllies and the Pittsburgh Pirates faced each other in the MLB playoffs, who would you want to win?

	ADULTS.....								
	PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL FANS Q30.....								
				AGE IN YRS.....				AREA.....	
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	West	Cntrl East
Phillies	50%	49%	51%	53%	53%	51%	46%	5%	47% 81%
Pirates	37	36	37	34	37	37	41	87	31 9
DK/NA	13	14	12	13	10	12	14	8	22 10

FAN TYPE Q30.....			FAVORITE TEAM Q31.....		
SuperFan/Fan	CasualFan		Phillies	Pirates	OtherTeam
Phillies	62%	55%	98%	-	48%
Pirates	35	42	2	98	43
DK/NA	3	3	1	2	9

33. (If professional baseball super fan, fan or casual fan q30) What is your best guess about when the Philllies will next win the World Series; within the next five years, in five to ten years, more than ten years, or probably never again?

	ADULTS.....								
	PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL FANS Q30.....								
				AGE IN YRS.....			AREA.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-49	50-64	65+	West	Cntrl	East
Next 5 years	48%	48%	49%	46%	48%	52%	21%	47%	64%
5-10 years	29	31	25	34	28	21	33	29	26
More than 10 years	6	8	4	7	9	4	10	7	4
Never again	7	7	6	6	6	9	16	6	2
DK/NA	10	6	16	6	8	14	20	11	5

FAN TYPE Q30.....			FAVORITE TEAM Q31.....		
SuperFan/Fan	CasualFan		Phillies	Pirates	OtherTeam
Next 5 years	56%	42%	71%	24%	36%
5-10 years	28	29	19	35	40
More than 10 years	6	7	4	10	7
Never again	4	8	3	13	5
DK/NA	5	15	3	18	13

34. (If professional baseball super fan, fan or casual fan q30) What is your best guess about when the Pirates will next make the playoffs; within the next five years, in five to ten years, more than ten years, or probably never again?

ADULTS.....									
PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL FANS Q30.....									
	AGE IN YRS.....						AREA.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-49	50-64	65+	West	Cntrl	East
Next 5 years	35%	40%	29%	34%	38%	33%	47%	32%	30%
5-10 years	25	27	24	23	31	28	22	24	28
More than 10 years	12	12	11	15	11	9	15	11	10
Never again	15	15	15	20	12	12	12	19	14
DK/NA	13	7	21	8	9	17	4	14	18
FAN TYPE Q30.....					FAVORITE TEAM Q31.....				
SuperFan/Fan					Phillies		Pirates		OtherTeam
Next 5 years	42%		28%		31%		52%		27%
5-10 years	25		26		25		20		31
More than 10 years	10		13		10		17		11
Never again	10		19		16		8		16
DK/NA	13		14		19		3		15